DIGITUS DEI, OR AN

Horrid Murther

Strangely Detected.

DECLARING

The Suspicion, Apprehending, Arraignment, Tryal, Confession, and Execution of *RICHARD ROGERS*, late of *Heavitre*, in the County of *Devon*, for Murthering of one *RUTH ASTON* his *Sweetheart*, having first begotten her with Child of two Children.

PUBLISHED

For Satisfaction to some, and Admonition of others, by *ABRAHAM JENINGS*, Physician, and Fore-man of the Inquest, upon view of the Body, before the Coroner.

They said among themselves, no doubt this man is a Murtherer, whom, though he hath escaped the Sea, yet Vengeance suffereth not to live, Acts 28. Ver. 4.

For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil, Eccles. 12. 14.

Raro antecedentem scelestum deseruit pede pœna claudo. *Hor.*

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OR
An horrid Murder strangely detected.

IT IS allow'd by all, that Man, the Miracle of Nature, was not only Created a rational, but ζῶον πολιτικὸν, a sociable and amicable Creature, obliged afterwards by the Decalogue, to love, and also forbid to kill or murder his Neighbour; unless he designed an abreviation of that span of life, given him at first by God his Creator; for the bloody and deceitfull man shall not live out half his dayes: and therefore seeing Heaven and Earth shall rather pass away, than one iota or tittle of divine writ go unfulfill'd; the bloody minded person should conclude, that Hell it self cannot find out a place so close and dark, to hide Murder; but Heaven can and will (though by the hands of obscure and unexpected agents) send, if not the Sun of plain proof, yet at least the glimmering light of circumstance, to the detecting of the most secret Murderer. Exod. 20.

Yea God himself ever hath, and still will, appear an upright Judge in the executing of his own antient Law given *Gen.* 9. and the 6.* *Whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed again*; And this will appear more than eminently conspicious, if we consult, his constant revenge against this sin, recorded by the faithfull registers of time, in all ages. For how many pregnant instances have they recommended to posterity, that when the Devil hath trapann'd men (upon the assurance of privacy) to ingage themselves in horrid murders, How (I say) hath he in their darkest contrivances, opened some little crannie, through which, a small circumstance hath peep'd out, by which (afterward) the

* This may be understood as well a prediction as a precept.

the Cawfull [illegible]
2 Sam. 12. 12. [illegible] guilty person, [illegible] *Nathan* did *David*, *thou art the Man*? And when perchance they have flattered themselves with the greatest secrecie, and immunity, then doth he proclaim their barbarous acts openly before all *Israel*; and before the Sun, by exposing the actors, as publique monuments of justice, to succeeding ages.

To which cloud of witness, I shall add (both for the barbarousness of the fact, together with the strangeness of the discovery) as irrefragable a testimony of divine vengeance, in pursuing murder, in this of *Richard Rogers*, as is to be found (in a person of his quality) in any History whatsoever.

This *Richard Rogers* was born of ordinary Parents at *Lippot* * in the County of *Devon*; who having been taught to read and write, was afterwards trained up in the knowledge of Husbandry; in which calling, after he had spent some time, 'twas his chance to serve an honest family in the parish of *Heavitree*, where he demeaned himself in the house very fairly, pretending there much to Religion, and elsewhere, when he came among such as professed the same; though he would be debauched enough abroad sometimes, both as to swearing and drinking. Indeed we cannot say strictly and * naturally that he was a drunkard, yet in a moral sense we may affirm the same, so he would drink to excess, and 'twas observed that that quantity of liquor which he would pour in without intoxicating of himself, would remove other of his companions, from their ordinary understandings, and sink them so much below their species, that for the time, they might be better ranked among beasts, than men.

* Some say at Up Otry.

* i. e. according to our Law.

But to pass by this, his darling vice, was that unhappy sin of Scoffing, attended with effeminate Wantoness; I say unhappy, because I have known some, and read of others, who accustoming themselves to this evill, made like fatal ends with his. Out of his many wicked jests, I shall mention some.

This *R. Rogers* having been at Church, and hearing Mr. *William Bankes* (a reverend Divine, and Minister of the Parish) treating upon that Text, *I Paul a Prisoner of Jesus Christ*, &c. wherein he shewed, how much of comfort, and true satisfaction, there was to any that suffered truly for the

sake

sake of Jesus Christ; and how little there was to others (though they might pretend this) as long as they suffered as evill doers; coming out of the Church, he told some that were with him, *He would preach as well as he ever did, if he could but forbear swearing so long.*

Again, when a Fellow, about two years since, was hang'd and quarter'd at *Heavitree*, for speaking Treason, he asked of one that was present at the time of the Execution, *what Psalm he had?* 'Twas told him he 51. He replied, *What a Fool was he? that's the common Psalm, when I am hanged I'le have the* 36th. Which prophane speech of his I mentioned to him, he being then on the Ladder, he denied it not, but desired that he might have the same, which was then granted unto him.

Yea the next day after he was apprehended upon suspicion of this Murther, some of his Friends coming to visit him, and discovering their sorrow for his troubles, he scoffingly told them, *They should not disturb themselves, for a three-penny halter at last would decide the quarrel.* I speak not this to aggravate any thing against him, but rather that his woes may be our warnings, and by his example we may all learn to amend.

Having spent 5. years with his first Master, he goes off from him, to a very good service (in the same Parish) with a Widow Gentlewoman, where 'twas his chance to enter some league with this *Ruth Anton*, being also a servant in the same Family, which Wench being both wanton, and fond of him, gave him occasion to commit folly with her, and though he had gotten her with Child, (before, or else resolves not to marry her, for being a handsom Fellow, he had gained such repute among the young Wenches, that he was fair to marry one, which was like to prove a better fortune to him. But this Gentlewoman giving up house-keeping at Christmas 1662. they both goe off together. But he is entertained as a Bayliff-Hind, by a Merchant of *Exeter*, who had a Country Farm in his hand, in the same Parish, about a mile and half from the City, where this *R. Rogers* went in the morning to follow his Masters business, and was to return to his Masters house in the City in the evenings. And she goes to serve another Gentleman, as a dairy-woman, in the same Parish also.

But

But after a while finding her self far gone with Child, and knowing not now, how any longer to conceal it, she is so disturbed in mind: that she can no longer stay in service, whereupon she applies her self to this her Sweet-heart *Rogers*, to take some order about the Child, or else speedily to marry her; but not intending the later, and that he might cloak one sin with another, he resolved to cover his Uncleanness with Murther, and to this end he appoints her a time and place of meeting, *viz. Wednesday* the 9. of *March*, in the Evening, in a certain Field, which lay not much out of the way between the place where he used, and the house she then sojourned at, and also but little out of the road between his Masters country-house, and the City; in the mean time he prepares a Potion of Drink and Mercury, and both meeting at the time and place aforesaid, he perswades her to take this liquor (he having first given her Mercury in the pap of an Apple) for it would carry off the Child, and hide the shame together, and with such delusions betrayes this *beneficium hamatum* into her, the which when she had received within less than a quarter of an hour, perceiving the venome of the Potion to ferment, and also greatly disturb her, she sits down, and with some out-cries, said he had * poysoned her. At which, fearing her noise, and lingring death would discover his fact, returning back again, falls upon her, and with both his hands (being a very strong Fellow) after her some few groans, strangles her, and then laying her upon her back, and putting both her hands upon her bosome (which was a little opened, as if she had strived to unlace her self, being taken in some fit of hysterical passion) being dead, he goes away, and leaves her in that fashion.

1663.

Here note that he made her guilty likewise of an intentional Murther, viz. of destroying her Children, at the very time he murdered her; for he perswaded her to take the Potion, not as Poyson, but only as a Dose, to kill the Child or Children.

Here I cannot but observe, how this poor wretch was cheated: for the Devil having deluded him so far, now for a while leaves him, for had he but suggested, that it had been more safe for him, to have taken her body, and thrown it into a deep trench, that was not passing two or three land-yards from that place, 'tis probable it would have gone for current, that she going over the little bridge, had fallen in, and broken her neck by accident: by which perchance his fault had been for a while suspended, though, I am confident, God would afterwards by some other means have discovered it.

** The Poyson was not discoverable in her opening.*

The

The Friday morning next after she was found by a Want or Mole-Catcher accidentally passing that way, who having acquainted the Constables with it, a Guard (before the Coroner could be procured, which was Saturday about one of the Clock) was appointed to watch by the dead body; in the mean time multitudes of people flock to see her, who all conclude that she was taken in a pang (as they call'd it) and so died suddenly. The Friday my Occasions calling me abroad for the greatest part of the day, at my comming home I was told of this accident, *viz.* that *Ruth Auton* walking abroad, was taken in a pang, and died suddenly; but being then obliged speedily to state the case of a sick person to some Physicians in *London*, I did not at first mind it so intently; but before I could write six lines, I was suddenly surprized with such an apprehension of the reported death of this person, that I was for that time rendred altogether uncapable of writing farther; for calling to mind some things that were lately passed in relation to this *Ruth Auton*, as that about a moneth before she comming to my House, enquired of one of my Family concerning the nature of Rue and Savin; and afterwards comming again told me she had not been well, and desired of me a strong purging Medicine; but I having been inform'd before what she had lately enquired after, and counting such an inquisition did not at all become the mouth of such a person, and mistrusting all was not well, I asked her whether she had brought with her, her water? (not that I pretend my self so much a water-witch) but because I know the common sort about us, (having been notoriously deluded by some grand cheats pretending to much in this kind) have espoused an opinion, that if they produce a Urine, a Physician cannot only tell that they are with Child, but also when, and where, and what coloured Petticoat they wore when they were faulty: She told me no; and moreover said to a friend of hers, she would not shew me any; whereupon I being now more jealous of her condition, told her I should not advise any such thing for her, upon which she goes out of the house with some kind of displeasure.

Thus reflecting upon what had pass'd between us, I was not only dissatisfied, but disturbed before I had sent for the

Constable and told him my thoughts of this matter; *scil.* that I conceived this Wench was with Child, and having taken some venemous Medicine to destroy the Bastard, had killed both her self and it together; Whereupon the Constable said that he was bound by his Warrant to warne me, and any other person to be upon the place that could say any thing concerning her, where accordingly I came with Mr. *Banks* about one of the Clock the next day; and by reason that some that were warn'd at that time did not appear, the Coroner commanded the Constable to warne me to serve as Fore-man of the Jury; being sworn and brought to view the body, upon sight of it I soon changed my thoughts as to the manner of her death, for when I saw in what regular posture she lay, *viz.* as if some industrious hand had prepared her for her Coffin, I did vehemently suspect (death commonly causing a preposterous Figure) that some one or other had destroy'd her, and withal certified so much to the Jury; but many of them were unwilling to incline unto it, thinking it more probable she died in some sharp Paroxysme, urging me with the sence of the *Civilian's* Aphorism, *Semper in dubiis benigniora sunt præferenda*; that in doubtful cases we ought to judge most charitably; though this were true in it self, yet being upon my Oath, I was willing to put all out of doubt, and to be better satisfied, to which end I desired the Constables that the people might be forced off, that so we might view the body more narrowly, which being done, I observed her Neck to be swollen and discoloured, and that some blood had issued out of her left ear, and was collected in her shift coller, upon which I moved her Head and Neck, and found them both loose and limber, but yet upon all other parts I observed such a tonick motion (the effects of death) that the whole body might be moved without putting a finger out of its position; moreover upon turning the head, I found a black spot like the print of a Thumb in one side of her face, and also that her head might with ease be moved about either way, further then nature designed, or she was able to put it in her life time.

And now seeing all Locomotive motion (as is this of the Neck) according to *Hippocrates*, *Galen*, and other Physicians)

is performed by the nervous Fibres fixt to the part to be moved, and to the other immovable, which being contracted, the movable is drawn to the thing immovable, and that beyond the principle of the Fibres, or the thing immovable, that part which is moved cannot pass, because, *Ultra Fibrarum originem nulla datur trahendi potentia.* But now that the Head was with ease to be moved about, beyond the bounds determined by the oblique muscles of the Neck, (*tam majores, quam minores,*) I made it clear to all the Jury. Nay farther, seeing the Neck it self (which by reason of the tumor should have been affected rather with a stiffness, then a laxitie) was so limber, and the head as to its other motions so loose also, I appeal to all, whether I might not now safely conclude (notwithstanding nature hath so strangely fabricated that part) that if there were not a fracture of the Spondils, or dislocation of the Atlas from the *Dentoides*, or second Vertebre; yet there was a rupture, or at least, a great distention of some of the Tendons, and musculous parts of the Neck, and consequently (I finding no other part disaffected) that she was murdered by violence offered to that part.

I speak the more of this, because I was not a little abused in this (as well as in other things) by the ignorance of some, and malice of others, for doing my notorious duty, *scil.* in the endeavouring to search out this horrid Murder; for there were some not ashamed to whisper about that this could not be, and that there was a false inquisition taken by the Coroner. But to let this pass, and leave the shame at the doores of them that avouched it;

The Jury being thus convinced of the truth of the murder, they were willing (being unacquainted with termes of art) *loquendo cum vulgo*, to express the manner of it by breaking of the Neck, and so was the verdict afterwards given in to the Coroner; and now we being satisfied as to our verdict, and that we might build it upon a firm ground, (not like the *Ephesian* Temple upon a *Quagmire*) we were willing to search out what might give occasion to any person to commit so fowle a murder, whereupon we thought it not so rational to imagine that Money was the immediate root of this evil, in regard she was not a person of that quality to carry so much

as to tempt the most needy to an act attended with no less hazard then inhumanity; the truth of this did soon appear; for there was found presently after in one of her Pockets *ten shillings* wrapt up in a paper; but we were rather inclined to think it a thing more probable that if she were with Child (as 'twas strongly suspected) the Father of the Child was the Author of the Murder; For it hath been well known, that as some Wenches have kill'd their Bastards, to cover their infamy; so have some fellowes murdred both their Whores and Bastards too, to cover their shame. Upon this ground (the Constables having first forced off the people except six or eight of the gravest women, and a Mid-wife, which incompass'd and covered the body (though some of his tribe did most maliciously and falsly report to the contrary, as though she should be exposed to the view of small & great,) I proceeded to open her, and found her with Child, with a Boy and a Girle, between some four or five moneths old, as was confirm'd since by his own confession.

And now being satisfied both to the murder and cause of it, and also certified that this *R. Rogers* was her reported servant or Sweet-heart; we desired the Constables he might be sent for, who being brought to the place, when he came in sight of the body, he falls a bleeding, but being stop'd, he was brought up to touch it; but whether it did bleed upon him or not, I cannot affirm; for at that time the whole body was covered except the face only, and so we cannot imagine that it should be seen, if that rule be true, which is given by some for such sanguineous eruptions, *viz.* that the Animal soul (distinct from the rational) not easily loosing that impress of love and tenderness of affection between it and its dear consort the body, being forced by some violent hand to leave it, goes not out with more reluctancy, then indignation to the person which occasioned its so much abhorred passage, where for a while hovering about the Corps with impotent desires (notwithstanding the impossibility) to enjoy a re-union, upon the approach of the Murderer, that it may manifest some tokens of revenge for that late unpardonable injury, it endeavours to agitate the several members to discover their displeasure against the Author of their separation;

separation; but having vainly made its attempts upon them, (being now dull and indispos'd to motion) it makes the like essayes on the mass of blood, putting the subtiler parts of it into a vehement ebullition, from whence having vent at the wound (in its motion) it gusheth out of the Orifices: And after this sort the dead body is said to bleed upon the peccant person; Now this could not be expected upon this touch of his (though some are Infidels as to the thing it self) that there should be an *Hemorrhagia*, or bleeding at the Nose, in regard by the cutting of some of the Vessels (in her opening) the blood found vent in so many places; and so this motion of the blood (upon the approach of the Murderer) could not be seen unless the Abdomen had lain open and the body uncovered, which by reason of the hurry of the people (untill it was too late) I had forgotten to experiment.

But to leave this digression; When it was demanded of him whether he thought this *Ruth* were not Murdered? He said he did believe she was, but by whom he could not tell; but we being not able to accuse him, gave in our Verdict as aforesaid, and left him to the Coroner to be further examined, who though he could trap him in nothing, and also though he had many friends present to plead for him, yet in regard he could be inform'd of none, beside him that had been her companion, he was willing to commit him to the Constables to be carried before Justice *Duck* to be again examined, where he was brought that Saturday night, but it being very late, the Justice was in Bed, and it was deferred untill Munday morning, and then he was to be brought at a house in *St. Thomas* Parish nigh *Exon*, where Justice *Northleigh* intended to be, and was present.

But now the news currant was, that such a one was murdered, and that *R. Rogers* was suspected for doing the fact, where upon it gave occasion to some that did know him well, to ruminate upon things past, and to speak among themselves what they had lately observed: And likewise, the vigilancy and care of the Constables (having seen the barbarousness of the fact) was so great that whatever relation accidentally came to their cares, if they could extract but the least semblance or probability from it, they would presently warn

the Relator to a personal appearance before the Justices to speak what they knew concerning this matter, so that though the suspition of him at his first taking into Custody was like *Elijas* Cloud, not so big as a mans fist, yet at last circumstances multiplied it into such a cloud of witness (as may be seen at large in his Tryal) as did not only discover but convince the whole Court that he was guilty of the fact.

And moreover the indefatigable paines, judicious management and narrow scrutiny of these Justices, when Witnesses were brought before them, was such, that in the opening this Relation I esteem my self unhappy in nothing more then that I want expressions to celebrate to the World their just merit, and most deserved worth; But however I am satisfied in this, that what is wanting on my part will (I question not) be supplied by the praises of good men, and also their Prayers to that God for them which is a plentiful rewarder of all such Magistrates as make it their business (as they did) to detect crimes and punish the Malefactors.

The Munday morning (having past his Examination, and the Witness heard) he was commited to the common Goale for the County aforesaid; but the Judges of the Assize comming into *Exceter* in the Afternoon, and being afterwards informed of the horridness of the Murther, and also what many and strong circumstantial evidences in two or three dayes did appear against him, thought good to deferr his Tryal, and to continue him a Prisoner untill the next Assize, believing in the mean time (as indeed it did afterwards appear) that much more would yet arise.

But while he was in Prison, as also when he was examined before the Justices, his Denials were so strong, and his behaviour so confident, that many in the world thought him harmless and innocent, whereas to a judicious and unbyased person his horrid imprecations, and confident, nay impudent carriage, were clear arguments of a guilty conscience; for an innocent person could not but be concerned, if not much troubled that the world should have such hard thoughts of him as to bring him upon the stage for so horrid a crime as this. But so far was he from being humbled by such apprehensions, or the sense of his guilt, that from the time of his

his first apprehending unto the day of his tryal, he spent it for the most part in idle Gaming, courting Wenches, and toping Liquors; nay the very day the Judges came into *Exeter* to try him for his life, that same evening was he kissing and playing with some wanton Girles that came to visit him, as if he had been more concerned for his Wedding then his winding sheet; for he did also at that time confidently speak to one for 4. yards and two quarters of Cloth (to be ready the next week when he came out of Prison) to make him a Suit.

Upon Friday the 19*th*. of *August* (an honest and searching Jury being impannell'd) he was arraigned before the Right Honourable Sir *John Archer* one of his Majesties Justices of Assize for that Circuit, where pleading not guilty, the Witnesses were called and sworn (as I take it) to the number of one and thirty. 1664.

Where was first proved the Murder of the Woman, and her being with Child of two Children, together with his bleeding at the Nose when he was brought to touch her.

Secondly, 'Twas proved that when he came to sign his Examination taken before the Justices, he was found to have one of his hands scratched, and that the scares or scabes upon them were so equidistant, and of that shape and bigness, that 'twas believed of all that saw them, they were the scratchings of Nailes; and being demanded how he came by them? He said 'twas in mending Hedges; but being told by one of the Justices that it was improbable, because it was his Glove hand; he presently turn'd his tale, saying, I see I must speak the truth, and then affirmed he got them in paring of Apple Trees; which his Lordship upon that evidence (besides the lie he was found in) excellently observed that scratching being the common defence of Women, when he was strangling of her, she clapt up her hand and left these signal tokens of his guilt, and her displeasure; adding farther, that though they were given *ex manibus Rubæ*, yet it was *Digitus Dei*.

Thirdly, It was proved that she went that evening to meet him; for the woman with whom she talked, affirmed, that this *Rash* had been a little before to speak with him, but not finding

finding him at home, she returned with great displeasure, and being much troubled told this her friend, that she must, and would speak with *R. Rogers* that week, or else would have him before his Betters, and also 'twas proved that he had been since at the house, and had had in the Yard (for 3. quarters of an hour) private conference with her, and moreover that when she went out the Wednesday, she told this woman she was going to speak with her friend, whom she understood to be this *R. Rogers*; and further she said, that she would not stay long, for she was afraid to go in the dark, and also 'twas observed, that when this *Ruth* had been with him, or he with her, she was then very pleasant and merry; but if she mist his company long, she was exceeding sad, and melancholick.

Fourthly, 'Twas proved by another Witness (one *John Seaward*) that in all probability there was a strong league between this *R. Rogers* and her; for 'twas his chance not long before the Murder by accident to carry this *Ruth* behind him some six or eight miles to a brothers house of hers, where he imagined she was to have stayed private a while, if they had conveniency to have entertained her; For as they were riding together, he observed that she did sigh often, and was much discontented, and that she had stomack sicknesses like a breeding woman, upon which he asked what was the matter with her, and why she did sigh and spit so, and whether she were not with Child, adding that he thought *R. Rogers* had been too busie with her. She did not positively deny it, but asked him again, whether he thought she would if he would do such a thing, and withal presently ask'd him further whether this *R. Rogers* would not prove a good husband and an honest man? he replied he could not tell, she must try that, but he believed he would; with that she said, then if one proved constant, all would be well.

Fifthly, It was proved he was privy to that journey; for this *John Seaward* was not the man at first designed to carry her, but one *Churchwel* a Miller was to have done it the day before, who being that day in some trouble, could not perform his promise; to this *Churchwel's* house this *R. Rogers* came that very morning, and inquired of his Wife whether

her

her husband was not to carry *Ruth* to the place aforesaid, she told him that he was, but that her husband was not within, neither was *Ruth* yet come, upon that he earnestly desired the woman to tell *Ruth* that he must needs speak with her before she went her journey, and that he would be in such a field at Plow, and that she must not come up to him the common way, for fear his former Mistress would see her, but that she should come up to him such a by-way as he then mentioned, not long after she comming, was told by some of the house what message *R. Rogers* had left for her, upon that she went up to him that by-path he appointed her, where when she came into the field, he left the Plow and went to meet her, and having had some private conference together, he went to his business, and she returned to the house of the Miller, but 'twas observed the day before he had gotten and prepared Savin.

Sixthly, 'Twas proved that when the news came up in the morning to *Whipton* (where his Masters house is) that a woman was found dead in such a Meddow, that there was an acquaintance of his asked him to go down with him to see her, but as they were going together when they came into the field, though at a great distance, *Rogers* tels him 'twas Mrs. *Fords* Dary-Maid, and that he would go no farther, but he pressing him to it, they went down together, but he would not come nigh her, and as they were returning, *Rogers* told him that had she not died a violent death (whereas every one as yet thought she had died a natural one) she had died in a very sad condition; Again a while after comming up to the Smiths Shop, a servant of the Smiths told him, I hear saith he (jestingly) that your Sweet-heart *Ruth* is dead in such a field, I wish you may not be questioned before the Justices about the death of her; upon which words he was a while at a loss, but turning himself about (the tears standing in his eyes) he went from him; And 'twas further observable that the Saturday morning going from *Exeter* to *Whipton*, he met with a friend of his, and asked the party whether *Ruth* were not yet carried away? 'twas told him no, and that 'twas believed he would be questioned first about her, with that, presently he goeth in over the ground again to

see her, where when he came (which no other person did) he began with his Stick to fidle about her, at which the Watchmen told him, no one was to medle with her, he replyed he would do her no hurt, and withall turned up her Neck-cloth, and going round, earnestly viewed that part in particular: now as we say, *Ubi amor ibi oculus*, where a Man loves, there will his eye be, so we may well think, he being conscious to himself of the wrong he had done to that part in particular, fixeth his eye there, especially to see whither his mischief would appear visible to others also.

Seventhly, 'Twas sworn that this *R. Rogers* playing with some Maids as they were making of a Hay-reek, one of the company told him, he would never give over fooling with the Wenches, before a Bastard was pinned upon him, with that he sweares out a great oath, he would break the neck of that Whore, that should do such a thing by him; and 'twas further sworn by another person, that this *Rogers* coming into a House in *Exeter* the Thursday night, that she was murdered the Wednesday, one of the Family, and a friend of his told him privately that she did hear *Ruth* was with Child, and that she did believe, she would call him for the Father, he presently replyed, if she did (knowing himself innocent) he would kill her, which speech of his (she being then dead as appeared afterwards) by some was construed in favour of him but 'twas otherwise observed by the Judge, *scil.* that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth might speak the truth hastily, which it would not do another time, considering more deliberatly.

Eighthly, (I remember) upon these circumstances he was requir ed at first by the Justices to prove where he was from Wednesday night untill Friday morning, the time she was found, all which time he proved sufficiently except the Wednesday from 7. of the Clock untill 8. of the same night, for 'twas proved that about seven of the Clock he was at one *Manly*'s house in *Whipton*, & that he sent away the Boy which was to have gone home with him at *Exon*, telling him he could go faster then he, and that he would overtake him, which he did not, for the Boy confessed he stayed for him at least a quarter of an hour at a House in the City before he came

came to him, now after his coming out of this house, he might have gone direct to *Exon*, but 'twas observed that he went not onwards, but went back again, to which he answered that the end of his going back, was to bid a good night to his Fellow-Servants, but they being sworn, confessed he came not thither to their knowledg, neither had they seen him some while before, which was a second lye he was taked in, for it was manifest that he turned short to a Stile between both Houses, and so went down to the Field where he did the murder. 'Twas also proved that he came at St. *Sidwels* (the Eastern Suburbs of the City) to one *Trobridges* a Baker about eight of the Clock the same night, for coming there he asked what of the Clock it was, and having spoken a word or two with the Baker (the Bell warns for eight) he goes from thence presently into the City, and finds the Boy at one Mr. *Ledginhams*, where he went to enquire for one *William Follet* an Hostler, about some Hay he had sold to him for his Master. But *William Follet* being not there, and *Rogers* being told he was at the white *Swan*, went down there to him, where at his coming in, he asked of this *Rogers* whither he would stay and drink with him, he told him he could not, for he had over-slipt his time already, telling him he had stayed two hours at this *Trobridges* the Baker, upon which *Trobridge* being sworn, said that his stay was very little there, and that he did not so much as come within the Doors, which was the third lye he was taken in.

Ninthly, This *R. Rogers* having been examined upon most of these things before, and having friends that brought him intelligence what evidence increased afterwards, thought the pinch of all to center in this, that he was concerned to make out where and in whose company he was, between the hours of 7. and 8. aforesaid, wherefore by the help of one *Manly* his friend, there is one *Trickey* a Butcher of *Broadclist* suborned, to sweare, that he came close after this *R. Rogers* then from *Whipton* unto the Bakers house aforesaid, for which he had five shillings of this *Manly*, and one shilling and six pence of this *Rogers*, with assurance of fifteen shillings more when he had sworn to the premises, and also that *Rogers* would be his friend for this whilst he lived, and if it were demanded of

him what caused him to come so late to *Exon*, *Rogers* told him he should say, that he brought Skiffors to sell to the Butchers, which was a thing he sometime used, thus *Trickey* having received the money, being troubled in conscience about it, goes to these Justices and informs them of it, and was now sworn an evidence concerning it.

Lastly, 'I was proved that the Thursday after the Murder, he was observed to bring a Coat very early in the morning to a Taylor in St. *Sidwell* to mend it, this Coat had the lineing of it riped before with a great rent in the cholk behind, which rent had been botchingly drawn up with white thred, which being noised abroad, the Taylor being sent for by the Justices, was bound over to give evidence of it, but *Rogers* hearing of it, in the mean time sends for a Bayliffe and promiseth him a large reward if he would pretend he had a process against him, and by that means for a while to force him to step aside, for I fear (saith this *Rogers*) he will be the worst evidence against me when I shall come to my tryal.

The witness having ended, and this being the summ of what was sworn, the Prisoner was now to speak for himself, which he did, but could make little defence as to either circumstance, onely he objects against *Trickey's* evidence, saying, that there were many fellowes would come into the Prison to see the Prisoners, and would there promise to be witness for them, but when they had pump'd out what they could, would turn faces about and give evidence against them, and farther he alledged (and so did others of his friends abroad) that this *Trickey* was a loose fellow, and one not at all to be credited. But whether he be such a one or not, I cannot tell, but 'tis likely they thought him such, for else his Broker *Manly* would not have attempted such a thing, for he could not imagine a religious person, nay one but of moral honesty would be cajoled into so wicked an act as perjury, which appear'd to all rational men a clearer evidence of his suborning, but what ever he is accounted, in this (not only by his own Oath, but by the Oaths of others) he demonstrated the truth of his evidence, and shewed himself an honest man.

And now this little shift finding no place, his great plea

and

and lowder cry was to have a legal tryal, and that he did hope the Court would not take away his life upon circumstance. For I perceive since (it being the general report) he had been besotted by some fondlings that repaired to him in the time of his imprisonment (and it is not strange, because, *quod volumus, facile credimus*) who told him 'twas hard, and that he could not justly be condemned upon circumstance, and that he needed not fear, unless the fact were positively proved by ocular witness; as if strong circumstances clearly proved (in capital crimes) where nothing of weight can be alledged by the Prisoner, to countermine the testimony, were not sufficient evidence in law for a jury to find, and a Judge to sentence a Malefactor. But his Lordship well observed to him, small circumstances had very often brought many, and that justly too to condigne punishment: For none can be so foolish to imagine, when the Devil hath prevailed so far upon wicked men, as to attempt robing upon High-wayes, breaking open houses, and murdering of persons, that they will be so impudent as to call witness to observe their wicked actions.

His Lordship having excellently sum'd up what was sworn by the Witnesses, and also what defence was made by the Prisoner, and exhibiting the force of both unto the Jury, leaves it to them to consider; Who going forth, after a little space brought him in guilty.

And yet notwithstanding this Syndrome or concourse of witness, and in them such a concatination and linking of evidence, not destroy'd in one sillable by any thing offered by the Prisoner himself; yet were there some (forsooth) so perversly peevish, (partly by reason of his fearful imprecations, partly upon his more confident denials, but principally because he went under the notion of a religious person) to censure all that were either concerned in the detecting the murder, or finding guilty the Murderer; as if the one had conspired against, and the other condemned an innocent person, whereas 'tis known there could lay no temptation on any, because the witness that did formerly know him (for my own part I did not, never seeing him to the best of my knowledge, until he was brought to touch the dead body) were all his friends, and many of them his intimate acquain-

cance, and if I mistake not, some of the chief witness came with no pleasure to give evidence against him. And farther some might have considered of what small credit the denials of a Malefactor are, seeing about some twenty years before one of the same City being suspected for poysoning of his Master, when he was laboured with by some of his dearest friends that he would confess the truth, and they would provide for his escape, (his Master being not yet dead, and he out upon bayle) he took the Sacrament upon his innocency, although afterwards (being condemned upon less circumstance) he confessed that fact upon the Gallows.

To this I might add that famous story of *Anne Green* being condemned at *Oxford* about some fourteen or sixteen years since for killing her Bastard, who at the very last denyed the fact, and being cut down after the usual time, was brought to the place to be dissected, but being found not totally dead, was by the skill and industry of Dr. *Petty*, Dr. *Willis*, and others, restored to her former health, and afterwards a pardon being procured, she confessed (as I have been really informed by some that were both at the University & City) the guilt. From whence we may collect how industriously wicked some Malefactors have been, who to save their lives and credit, and rather then they would resigne this thing called Reputation, to the due censures of the world, and their bodies to corporal punishments, would by horrid imprecations at first, and desperate denials at last, hazard, if not eternally destroy their precious soules.

The next day being Saturday, he was again brought to the Barr to receive sentence of Death, where he desired of the Judge he might again speak for himself, his Lordship told him he would hear him in any thing, provided he would speak no more then that he would answer the truth of it, as he did hope for Salvation, to which he agreeing, the Judge ask'd him whether he were not guilty of the fact? He answered he might not confess what he was innocent of; and withal said to his Lordship, that about three weeks before *Christmas* last, he saw *John Seaward* (one of the Witnesses against him) to have carnal knowledge of this *Ruth Auton*, in an out-house of his Mistrisses, and that he proffered him five pounds

to

to conceal it; to whom the Judg replied, why he had not urged this yesterday, when this *Seaward* gave evidence against him, and that it might then have somewhat weakened his testimony: But to mention it now is shewed but a malicious putting blow to *Seaward*, and consequently in concealing such uncleanness, made himself a pandor to the fact; adding moreover that he shewed his malice in that he was not content to abuse her and take away her life, but also to scandalize her now she was dead. And if he had no other thing to say for himself, this would signifie little for him. Then he desired that his life might be spared, and he would be willing to go into any forreign Plantation; but his Lordship told him that was not to be allowed such notorious malefactors, and that his example here might do more good then his person there: And so after many excellent admonitions, he gave sentence of death upon him.

He was then carryed from the Barr to the Gool, where many Ministers visiting him, he accepted of some, and refus'd others; but they that were admitted (together with some that were Prisoners upon another account) labour'd with him much that day, and part of the night, he stood it out still with terrible imprecations, denying that he was any more guilty then those that charged him; but in the end, after many pressing arguments (for to be plain, all that he delivered in the prison was rather extorted from, then confess'd by him) he dropt this, *What was done in the Dark, men had brought to light*, which he would not presently explain. Afterwards upon many importunities, he began to declare that she dyed of Poyson, and that he was indeed in the field when she took it, but that he was no Actor in, only an accessary to her death; still in this manner he confessed things confusedly, still extenuating his fact, and bartering his discourse with lies, viz. As that she her self had prepared a Powder in a box, and a liquor in a Glass bottle, the use of which having so stained the Glass, that made him ask her (when she was about to take it) what it was? who told him 'twas white Mercury, with that he told her 'twas Poyson, but she answered that she had wiss that with it which would correct the venome of it, and so taking the white within

the

the box upon a point of a knife, and also drinking the potion in the bottle after it, (which he held in his hand) whereupon a little afterwards she began to run about the field, crying out as if she had been distracted, Oh my Mother, my Mother! I am poysoned, upon this he asked of her, what he should do for her? with that she replied, you can do nothing for me, I would advise you to be gone, else people will say you have poysoned me, and so having seen her fall three times, he goes off and left her.

Much of which was true if we invert the termes, *viz.* He for she; for though he retrived this fiction, and stood confidently to it a great part of the next day, yet upon a more narrow scrutiny made by some of the Prisoners aforesaid, as demanding what she did with the Box, &c. and he telling them into what part of the Hedge (in the same field) it was thrown, and one of them (with others accompanying him) having obtained leave to go seek it, and finding it at the place aforesaid, and afterwards by inquiry they being informed, 'twas a box of one of the Children of the house where he last lived, and pressing him that he had abused both himself and them by the falshood of this relation, they brought him at last (upon condition they would conceale it untill he came to the place of execution,) to this confession, *scil.* that he having brought her with child, and she complaining she was now rendred unfit for service; he promised her something to free her of that trouble, whereupon appointing her to meet at the time and place aforesaid, he gave her Mercury upon the point of a Knife, mixt with the pap of an Apple, with a potion of drink and Mercury also, and this under pretence (to her) to carry off the Child only, who taking it, and within a little while feeling it to disturb her, ran about the field in a distracted manner, crying out as aforesaid, Oh my Mother, my Mother! I am poysoned, &c. and so she falling three times, but before she was dead, he goeth away and left her, but hearing her cryes, and fearing thereby a discovery, he returnes where she lay, and putting both his thumbs to her throat he strangled her, and so goeth off and leaves her; which I observe still as with some things he delivered at the Gallows.

But

But we may not think it strange that he lived so securely, &c. stood it out to the last so impudently, when we consider what principles he had imbibed; for he told some in the Prison, and own'd it upon the Gallows, that he had so consulted his credit in this world, that if he could either by lying, or swearing, and forswearing, wipe off this staine that now lay upon his reputation, and once again appear innocent before men, he did not care if he did undergo the wrath of God to all eternity in the world to come. So that we may see how the pride of the heart (that ray of reputation) sometimes stifles conscience, and will not suffer the tongue to make an ingenuous confession.

The Tuesday being the 23. of *August* in the morning he was brought to the place of Execution, where to give him his due, (methoughts) he shewed himself both humble and penitent, and was so far candid in his confession as not to deny any thing that was urged to him, saying, That it might be so, but he could not then remember it; for indeed there was nothing material here, or there, mentioned to him, but could have been at that very instant of time (by sufficint witness) proved against him; but I have charity enough to think (where I reflect upon his agonious condition) that his mind migh be so disordered as that at time not at all to remember them.

At the foot of the Ladder he made this following Prayer.

O Lord give me some token of a broken heart. O that I may be an example to all that stand here, that they may look to their wayes. Let me obtain mercy now in the last hour; and though my walkings have been hainous, yet let me obtain mercy now at the last gasp! Lord at the last gasp! all my pleasures are now come to stand in judgement against me. I beseech thee O Lord to blot them out of thy remembrance; make me come in without spot or blemish before thee. O let me confess how hainously I have sinned, not in one thing only, but in many things against thee. I beseech thee for the pardon of my sin; Lord save my Soul for thy name sake. Let thy mercy be showred down upon me, thou art a merciful

God. Let none come to this death, none to this death. Lord shower down some mercy on me: O Lord let me see Heaven, let me come before thy Presence; O that I could see the glory of thee the ever living God! now I am a dying let the spirit of refreshment come to me. Give a blessing to all them that sought out this my secret murder; give a blessing that they may reign and prosper Lord, in the later end! that the Lord may shew many more examples by others as well for what is done secretly, as what is done openly; for what is done in secret, thou wilt reveale on the house tops. O how did Satans temptations in the first place, and in the last place strive to cover my shame! but thou hast found out instruments to find out this.

O pardon me for that great and deadly fact I committed, O that I may come to an open shame, and may be an example to others. Lord look on me in mercy; hear all my Prayers. Lord I beseech thee let no sin be layd to my charge. And all I beg for Christs sake, in whose words I farther pray unto thee, saying, Our Father which art in Heaven, &c.

Ascending the Ladder he spake as followeth.

AND now Gentlemen all here you know for the most part what I have been, you know for the most part the way I have lived, and you see the death I must die, you know the vanity I have done; I beseech you as my own heart that this may be an example; and I beseech all young men, maides and servants that they will beware as well in what company they come, as what Masters they serve: what saith *Solomon, By means of a Whorish woman a man is brought to a morsel of Bread.*

I lived in this Country three years, and behaved my self honestly towards God, and towards man: Then it was my fortune to go unto service with an honest religious Family, where was an Object alwayes before mine eyes, —— and I being full of lust, it tempted me to uncleanness, then standing upon my credit, and being loath it should be manifest, and to have the reputation of a Whoremaster, then to heale and avoid the shame, I entred upon the bloody fact I am now to die for.

For all those that were instruments to find me out, I beseech

seech God to bless them for the discovery: yet there were some of the Witnesses which did swear falsly against me, but I hope God will have mercy for them.

In the first place as the sin was an hainous sin, so it was committed in folly, and alwayes seeing the object of my shame before me, I was willing to avoid it, and so was she also; whereupon I thought I would use some meanes to rid my hands of her, whereupon the Devil put it into my mind to poyson her, his Angels having long roared about me, I was fearful of the effects of it being Mercury, yet I gave it her, and after she had taken it she kept a noise, with that I fearing I should be discovered in the act, I strangled her, it was almost a quarter of an hour after she took it before I dispatched her; she took it her self, I did not force her, but I brought it to her, I gave her some also in beer, I cauled the little boy (whom my Lord would not have sworn) to buy it for me, but the mans name where he bought it I have forgotten, I knew when I gave it to her it would take away her life, but I did not let her know it, she thought it was onely to clear her of the Child; I think I did not break her neck, though I do not deny but that I used violence to it, for my own part I have charity for the Jury, it may be her neck was broken by my force, but I did not know it. I may glorifie God in those men that found it out, that so I might be punished and made an example to others.

I beseech you to remember I have lived in godly and religious families, I pray God it may be no staine to Religion, There was none privy to this fact but my self. For the scratches on my hands I do not know that it was by her, neither do I know how they came, I cannot say positively for the world that I did not receive those scratches from her, but as I remember it was the same day; I [b] pray God pardon them that swore I had four scratches, I am a dying man, I had not so many: As to the Coat that was brought against me, I did not wear it that [c] day, nor three weeks before, I was at Plow that day, which many here know how unfit such a Coat was for that work.

As to her being with Child I know not certainly the time, but it was a good while before *Christmas*, five or six weeks at least.

I was never guilty of committing murder before, neither perswaded her to do it on her self. But for this I beg pardon of God, and I beseech God I may be an example to all; pray tell those that are belonging and are Keepers to the Prison, not to suffer Prisoners after they come, to spend away their time so as I have done, and make a scorn of Godly and religious men that make conscience of what they do.

As to the commiting uncleanness with her immediately before the fact, that was only a conjecture and nothing else; but for the murder, it was done at the same place where she was found dead; I confess I have made many greivous lyes to vindicate my self, which I beg God to pardon now. There are many that are come now to see me, to whom I was formerly a spectacle of well doing, but now of evil. I beseech God to forgive me for saying I did not do the fact, and that others will not stand in their own light by saying not guilty, though I believe I should not have confessed it to this time, had it not been by great perswasions of others.

I do free *Steward* to the whole world, and ask him forgiveness with all my heart; I named him only for the vindicating of my own credit.

I do confess I did know my self guilty, and had a sense of my sin at my first comming into Prison; I know the plague of God, but after there came the Angels of the Devil that are alwayes sollicitors to such places as the prison; they came and cried peace, peace; but now you see sudden destruction is come upon me; these will follow nothing of good, or nothing of eternity, but walk out in a bragadochious way.

But I beseech you all not to defer repentance too long, for the longer it is deferred the harder it is to be gained; I beseech God if ever it be the fortune of any friend of mine to come thither, let them see to it, that they do not defer repentance, for fear it be too late; Oh for fear it be too late! The guile of this sin did lie heavily on me, when it came into my mind; but I took wrong courses, as drinking, playing, &c. no harkning to sober serious men that would have done me good.

As to the threatning to make *Wasbeer* the Taylor run out of the Country, 'twas only a hasty expression, if he did not bring my Coat to me.

And

And now I have nothing to say for my self, but this, that I am ashamed of my self, and I wonder how I shall be able to look God in the face, for this greivous sin commited against him: I do here make one ingenuous confession of my fact, beseeching God that I may be a spectacle to the world, that none may be deceived so, in hopes of concealing the like; and I wish all young men under the Sun to beware of their company as much as of any thing; for 'twas keeping of evil company, and using idle and profane jeering, which was my great sin, and a means to bring me to this place. *Lust bringeth forth sin, and sin bringeth forth death*; I wish I could be a thousand times more ashamed of it, then I am, now that I come to stand before God! O Lord, if thou give men the power (as 'tis just) to find me out, how will God find my sin out, for conscience found me out, and witnessed against me often; Oh I beseech God it may be an example to all behind.

As to the abusing Mr. *Banks*, in saying I could preach as well as he at any time, if I could forbear swearing so long, let not Mr. *Banks* be prejudiced, I do not remember any such thing. This is easie to be proved, to whom he spoke it.

Sheriffe. Have you any more to say?

R. Reg. Nothing more but only to you that are to be prisoners after I am gone, you are prisoners of God, take care, there will be many come in for the same sin, to tell them not to put their trust in vain hopes, but be alwayes minding them, what a ruine this hath brought upon me; I speak as a dying man, how vainly have I lived! how did God give me space to repent ever since the last Assize, and I repented not!

And for you that are the Keepers of the Prison, Oh let them not go on in riotous and vitious courses, for then they are apt for all wickedness, swearing, whoring, &c. to the abusing of God and his justice, to the abusing of all good men that wish them well, experimental knowledge makes manifest. And I beseech God that none after I am gone to my grave may live the same life I have done, and that no staine may lie on Religion and the Professors of it for my sake.

I freely forgive all that were instrumental in discovering my

my fact, and I must needs confess the justice of God in finding me out; for what is done in secret he will reveale it on the house tops; no one saw this, nor thought of this thing, nay it was not found until two or three dayes after, yet how God brought it out. Then in answer to some questions he said,

Yet he said in the Goal, and also before in his confession, she cried & ran as if she had been distracted about the field; wch is most probable, for she was certainly heard by one that came that way at that time.

We appointed a meeting in that field where I gave her the poyson; a little after she had taken it, she cried out, Lord I am poysoned, but did not cry so hard, as for any that passed by to hear her, I went not out into the high way, but went a cross the ground.

As for *Trickey*, I did not give him five shillings, I never saw *Trickey* before, 'twas one *Manly*, look after him, for he was the industrious instrument to suborn him, I never saw *Manly* before, but *Trickey* by him was brought into the Goal to me. Neither had I any money of hers at the time of her death. Neither was I privy to an indirect means, as corrupting the Jury or any person of the Jury, onely I desired them to do me right, which is the desire of all men; where one of them did tell me, Mr. *Turner* by name, the fourth man of the Jury the day before my Trial, that I must prepare for death.

'Twas *Rogers* Father & *Manly* that were acquainted, & so *Rogers* his Father gave the 3. sh. to *Manly*, & *Manly* to *Trickey* & this was sworn, & all 3. being present. i. e. because all the country (almost) knew that evi-

Sheriffe. Have you any thing more to say?

R. Rog. I have nothing more to say, but desire you all to beg pardon of God for all my sins.

But then again, some other questions being propounded to him by some that were present, as whither he did not say scoffingly that the man that was hanged and quartered for Treason, was a fool for choosing the 51. Psalme; and when he was hang'd he would have the 36. Psalme; He answered it might be so, he did not remember such a thing, I will not say I never said it, I was not at the execution then. Ever since I lived first in this parish when I used to ride too and fro by this place, I should be often thinking, that if ever I came to this place. I wished I might be such an example as none might come here after me.

Indeed I did say, I did stand so much upon my own credit in the world (and I wish all to take warning by me) that if I had been to take my choice, I should rather have chosen the wrath of God to all eternity, then any staine in my reputation.

tion. And now you see what trust there is in this vain world. You see whereto all my pleasures do return, you see all the pleasures of sin for a season are nothing; what is it to eternity where I am going? O how will the contempt of God's judgements here rise in judgement against me hereafter! Death I have deserved, and I am willing to have it, and I justifie God in his judgements.

It was my reputation in the world that made me to study to defend my self all along by adding sin to sin.

dence would come against him. He spake it to persons at his Masters house that day.

Having ended this his Confession, he prayed thus.

O Lord I beseech thee! Lord I am going out of the world, Oh good Lord I beseech thee for to pardon my hainous sin, all the sins of all the dayes of my life, all my best actions are sin, Lord how have I sined against thee! Lord how have I gone to hide the sin committed! and yet thou foundest it out. Lord how thou revealest my shame and folly here. Lord make me an example to the world. I beseech thee look down and shew one drop of mercy now, one drop of mercy Lord! let me see that thou hast some token of mercy. I have so far sined as that I am not able to stand before thee in any way; who can stand before the great and dreadful day of the Lord! O how are things that I have done brought to light! Oh! how are my bowels troubled, all that is within me is wrapt up in Satans weeds of temptation; Lord! unload my heart, let me come before thee without spot or blemish, spotless, and blameless. Lord! look down in mercy upon me, and so shall I find mercy to help me in the great day. Make them that I leave behind me make them to take an example, let them begin now, let them that play away time, redeem time, now whilest it is called to day, before the night come upon them, for fear least it come and none shall be able to speak and say, Lord have mercy upon me; let them look all back on themselves, to see all their sins that are layed open before thee; let us all have a meeting in the Kingdome of Heaven. Lord pardon all the failings of my Prayers and dealings all my dayes, and my sins especially that are now come before thee, and all for Christ's sake our Lord and only Saviour.

He

He desired to speak one word more.

Let every one that is here consider, you know not your time, that you would be sure to make preparation, make preparation one day before your time; now this day you are not prepared, and to morrow you may die, therefore for my sake make preparation one day before, be alwayes prepared.

He desired a Psalm of mercy, and being remembred what he had spoken profanely concerning this formerly, desired the 36. Psalm as aforesaid, which was observed to be very proper for him, and he having a Bible, he read and tuned the same.

As the rope was going about his Neck, he said, For Gods sake you that are to die, keep nothing within you, declare the whole truth; O Lord it is vanity of vanity to conceal it, for thou knowest it; and I pray God I may be an example to all, that no more may come to this pass, for his names sake let me be the last.

I forgive you (meaning the Hangman) and all the world besides; and then was he commanded by the Under-Sheriffe to do his Office, and so in the presence of at least five thousand people, about ten of the Clock he resigned his life to a shameful death, as a just reward of his bloody murder.

Thus Reader thou seest a barbarous murder secretly committed, and as strangely detected, which should be a *Memento* to all bloody-minded persons, that though they make no conscience of the fact, yet should dread the discovery, there being no place shut so close, but Heaven can look into it, neither is there any Buckler so strong, that is able to withstand the stroke of vengeance when 'tis delivered by an angry God against a sinner. *Now consider this ye that forget God, least he teare you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.*

Psal. 50. 22.

FINIS